

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on **Monday, August 23, 2004**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:29 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, Council Member District No. 5, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Council Member District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council Member District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council. Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1, was excused from this meeting.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

During periods of discussion and/or presentations, minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased.

Chairman Fish called the meeting to order and stated an Executive Session was not needed.

Chairman Fish continued by asking for approval of minutes from a meeting of the Committee on Finance held July 26, 2004.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Council Member Crosby and seconded by Council Member Steve Davis to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A. Ronnie Williams, Berkeley County Assessor, Re: Property Tax Cap.

Mr. Ronnie Williams provided a presentation on the 20% Property Tax Cap. He explained that he had been approached by the Association of Counties regarding the dollar impact of the 20% Property Tax Cap. A rate of 100 mills was used for assessing the real property countywide. At this rate, 77% of property owners would pay a higher tax, with 23% paying a lower tax with the cap. All districts would on the average pay a higher tax. The cap is actually a value cap, not a tax cap. A copy of Mr. Williams' presentation is attached hereto and by this reference is made a part hereof.

B. Consideration of a **Resolution** adopting various **policies** providing for reimbursement to the County for the use of long distance and cellular phone service for personal calls and providing for reimbursement to employees and elected officials for county related use of personal phones.

Ms. Kace Smith, Finance Director, stated a monthly statement is received from the cellular phone companies and is provided to the department heads. It would be the department heads' responsibility to determine which calls would be deemed personal and charged at a flat rate of ten cents per minute. This amount would be reimbursed to the county. Also employees would be reimbursed for county business related calls on personal phones. The policy would include all county employees and elected officials.

It was moved by Council Member Pinckney and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve the Resolution adopting a policy for personal use of long distance and cellular phones. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

C. Review prior to **Second Reading** of **Bill No. 04-62**, an **ordinance** authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between **Berkeley County, South Carolina** and **Maybank Industries, LLC**, whereby, under certain conditions, Berkeley County will facilitate certain economic development incentives for a project financed with industrial development revenue bonds pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 29 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended; and other matters related thereto.

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve the review prior to **Second Reading** of **Bill No. 04-62**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

D. Consideration prior to **Third Reading** of the following:

1. Bill No. 04-52, an **ordinance** authorizing a **one-year postponement** of the implementation of revised values resulting from the equalization program (**reassessment**), as provided in Section 12-43-217, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Pinckney to approve the review prior to **Third Reading** of **Bill No. 04-52**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

2. Bill No. 04-53, an **ordinance** amending Ordinance No. 87-6-9, which provided for the creation of the **Berkeley County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**, to modify the composition of and appointment to the Committee and to repeal Ordinance No. 01-9-44 in its entirety.

It was moved by Council Member Pinckney and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve prior to **Third Reading** of **Bill No. 04-53**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

3. Bill No. 04-63, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 04-06-43, the **Sangaree Special Tax District operational budget** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005, and to provide for the levy of Ad Valorem property taxes in the amount of Forty-Eight (48.0) mills.

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve prior to **Third Reading** **Bill No. 04-63**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

E. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Chairman

On recommendation of the Committee, Chairman Mims moved to approve the ten percent matching funds for the Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of \$7,264.00. *(No Second Required)*

The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. (That concluded Chairman Mims' report.)

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Crosby to adjourn the Committee on Finance. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

September 27, 2004
Date Approved

FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday August 23, 2004**, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the meeting of the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing and the Committee on Planning and Development at **6:00 pm**.

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss matters relating to the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body and the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim and other matters covered by the attorney – client privilege.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 26, 2004

A. Ronnie Williams, Berkeley County Assessor, Re: Property Tax Cap.

B. Consideration of a Resolution adopting various **policies** providing for reimbursement to the County for the use of long distance and cellular phone service for personal calls and providing for reimbursement to employees and elected officials for county related use of personal phones.

C. Review prior to Second Reading of Bill No. 04-62, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between **Berkeley County, South Carolina** and **Maybank Industries, LLC**, whereby, under certain conditions, Berkeley County will facilitate certain economic development incentives for a project financed with industrial development revenue bonds pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 29 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended; and other matters related thereto.

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E. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. **Committee on Justice and Public Safety**
Council Member Mrs. Judy Mims, Chairman
 - a. Sheriff's Department: Additional funds.

August 17, 2004
S/Barbara B. Austin, CCC
Clerk of County Council